Liberalisation of newsprint import policy

968. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to further liberalise the news print import policy and to put an end to undesirable protection for indigenous manufacturers who were exploiting the seller's market by supplying inferior qua lity newsprint at higher prices ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that during the last four years the price of newsprint has been increased six times by about 85 per cent and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure the quality of newsprint and to contain the rising prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). The newsprint import policy is reviewed by the Government from time toH time and suitable amendments are considered as and when necessary. There is no statutory control over the price and distribution of newsprint. Newsprint units are free to procure indigenously produced newsprint from any of the mills listed in Schedule' I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962.

(c) The indigenous newsprint mills have effected increase in their prices during the last 4 years. A statement regarding increase in prices is attached. The increase in prices of newsprint has been attributed by the newsprint mills mainly to the esca lations in the input costs.

(d) Mills are considered by the Govern ment for inclusion in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 if they produce paper conforming to BIS stan dards for newsprint and the paper is be ing used by newspapers. The quality should also be satisfactory. Every revision in the prices of indigenous newsprint is referred to the BICP for a post facto study into its causes and justification.

Statement

Name of Mill	Date of Increase	Price Increase (Rs. per MT)
Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL)	1-5-1990	700
	5-11-1990	1,000
	17-6-1991	800
	29-5-1992	1,000
	20-6-1993	500
The Mysore Paper Mills Limited (MPM)	April, 1990	800
	October, 1990	800
	19-6-1991	815
	21-5-1992	1,040
	24-11-1992	922
Hindustan Newsprint Limited (HNL)	1-6-1990	865
	29-10 1990	695
	1-4-1991	900
	1-6-1991	795
	20-5-1992	1,000
	21-6-1993	1,000
NEPA Limited	1-6-1990	1,044
	7-11-1990	656
	15-6-1991	1,100
	22-5-1992	1,700
	2-12-1992	1,000